

## REMARKS

Claims 1-19 are pending in the application. Claim 19 has been added. Claims 1-18 have been amended.

Independent claims 1 and 15 have been clarified to more accurately define that the single-bit output signal is an "unformatted" data signal. The amendment is supported by the present specification such as, for example, at page 2, line 27 of the published PCT-application.

An unformatted data signal is typically a Pulse Density Modulated signal which has no format and wherefrom the analog (audio) signal can be reconstructed by simply passing the Pulse Density Modulated signal through a low pass filter.

Compared to the subject matter of the pending claims, U.S. Patent No. 5,051,799 (D1 in the cited references of the PCT Examination Report) relates to a **formatted** data signal. See Col. 7, lines 20-22. The data signal of U.S. Patent No. 5,051,799 must include therein both clock pulses and frame synchronization pulses. A data signal comprising frame synchronization pulses also has frames therein. Frames require a format as to the most significant bit, least significant bit, frame length, etc. Consequently, U.S. Patent No. 5,051,799 cannot be said to describe "an unformatted single-bit output signal," as required by independent claims 1 and 15.

One significant advantage of the unformatted single-bit output signal, as set forth in claims 1 and 15, is its compatibility with already existing single-bit output microphones. The digital microphone according to the present invention benefits from the substantial performance advantages associated with the multi-level quantizer, such

lowered noise floor and freedom of idle tones, while it maintains its backward compatibility.

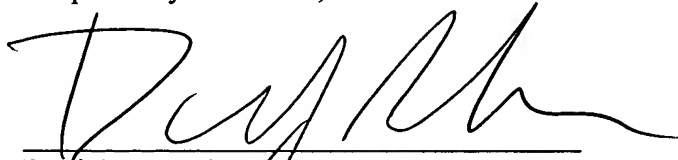
New claim 19 has been added which states that the digital signal converter providing the unformatted single-bit output signal is a sigma-delta converter. The support for this amendment may be seen in, for example, in FIG. 1 of the present application.

### **Conclusion**

The Applicants believe that the claims are in a condition for allowance and action toward that end is earnestly solicited.

If there are any matters which may be resolved or clarified through a telephone interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the Applicants' undersigned attorney at the number indicated.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Burnham', written over a horizontal line.

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